

REMARKS

Claims 4, 14 and 33 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 32, 34-41, 44 and 45 are pending. Claims 1, 11, 32 and 34 are amended herein, and are submitted to be allowable over the art of record. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application in view of the Amendments and Remarks below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-27, 32-41, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,478,903 to John, Jr., et al. ("John, Jr.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,520 to Boberg ("Boberg") or U.S. Patent No. 5,654,520 to Calsson ("Calsson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the reference or references, when combined, must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. The motivation to modify the prior art and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based upon a patent applicant's disclosure. *See in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The art of record fails to disclose or suggest all the claimed limitations.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 32 have been amended herein to include a limitation of a gas producing agent from about 5% to about 25% by weight. John Jr. discloses PETN of 3% (see Table 1). No other art of record fulfils this missing limitation, either when taken singly or in combination.

Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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